

NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 2-13 (as currently written and numbered) are allowable over the prior art and do not suffer from any deficiencies under 35 U.S.C. § 101 or § 112. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: regarding independent claim 2, the most pertinent reference of record appears to be Kobayashi et al., WO 2004/024323 (published 3/25/04) ("'323")¹.
2. Regarding independent claim 2, '323 discloses a PSMCC comprising Pd⁰ supported by a cross-linked polymer, the latter being obtained by cross-linking a cross-linkable polymer containing both hydrophobic (e.g., the phenyl group in material (2)'s styrene) and hydrophilic (e.g., the glycidyl group or hydroxyalkyl chain in materials (1) and (3)) side chains, wherein the hydrophilic side chain has a cross-linkable functional group (i.e., the glycidyl group or carboxyl group of (1) and (3), respectively) and the hydrophobic side chain is free of hydrophilic substituents and cross-linkable functional groups. *See* '323 at, e.g., clms. 1, 2, 4 and 14. '323's PSMCC is prepared in solution by supporting the Pd⁰ upon/within a dissolved, cross-linkable polymer, and then cross-linking said polymer. *See id.* at, e.g., clm. 17. Pre-crosslinking micelle formation is implied, since '323 states that only the *polymer* is dissolved within the solvent, while both the polymer and the Pd⁰ are placed therein. *See id.*

Independent claim 2 (and all claims depending directly and/or indirectly therefrom) has been allowed over '323, however, because '323's publication date of 3/25/04 was pre-dated by applicant's 10/5/11 submission of an English translation of its 3/8/04 JP priority document. As such, '323 is no longer prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany said fee. Such comments should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DANIEL BERNIS whose telephone number is (571)270-5839. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Thursday, 9AM-6PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stanley Silverman can be reached at (571)272-1358. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/D. B./ October 12, 2011
Examiner, Art Unit 1736

/Stuart Hendrickson/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1736

¹ NOTE: The Office is using EP 1537913 as an accurate translation of '323, as the latter document is in Japanese. '323 is expressly noted as being the international publication, and thus equivalent, of the EP doc. As such, all paragraph, claim, etc. citations to '323 shall in fact refer to portions within the EP doc.